

### IN THE SPECIFICATION

On page 2, in the second full paragraph, please make the following changes:

A1  
Accordingly, in the software field ~~there have developed~~ various software architectures have been developed in which application functionality is broken down into smaller units, such as objects or components. These units may be assembled to provide the overall functionality for a desired application. For example, a group of components may be assembled and compiled to provide a stand-alone, executable program. Alternatively, the components may be invoked and used in real-time, when the component's functionality is needed.

On page 4, in the first full paragraph, please make the following changes:

A2  
The present invention's N-tier software design architecture is employed to develop software components 20 (shown in Fig. 1 as 20a, 20b, and 20c). As those of ordinary skill in the programming arts will appreciate, "N-tier" in the prior art may be thought of as implying a hierarchy such as with protocol stacks. However, as used herein, "N-tier" describes an architecture that is characterized by a plurality of "N" tiers 30, each of which has a specified type and a specified interface. Although a hierarchy can be defined for the tiers, no hierarchy is implicit in the N-tier architecture of the present invention.

4  
On page 7, in the second full paragraph, please make the following changes:

A3  
Each software component 20 to be developed is associated with at least one tier 30, depending upon the nature of the functions to be performed by that software component 20 and tier 30. The present invention specifies a method and a system for creating architectures to implement an N-tier system wherein a software component designer can design or select each software component 20 to perform specified functionality and ensure that each software component 20 has the interfaces specified by the architecture for that tier 30.